

3 “Szentkút” (3 Holy Wells) Pilgrimage at New Year's Eve

- or how to be thankful after a rough year

Between 29 and 31 December 2022, a pilgrimage was held as part of the rurAllure programme in the heart of Hungary, on the line of Bodajk-Csátka-Jásd. These three villages share extraordinary attributes: all of them have a miraculous shrine and springs with fascinating history, so the cultural and natural treasures along the route and the rich sacred heritage of the sites are of great interest. The end of the year offers a great opportunity to look back, analyse and discover the need for a change or maintain the achieved goals. Our thanksgiving pilgrimage was built around these themes with narratives of the rurAllure programme.

A group of pilgrims departed from Bodajk on the 29th December early morning. We were happy to welcome several young people joining us for the first day. During the 25 km route they could learn about the history of Bodajk shrine, experience the hospitality of the villagers in the Bakony Mountains and gain strength for the next year from the cold water of the springs and the sleeping forces of nature. Pilgrims could also have a glance at a herd of 15 deer, called as ‘*rudli*’ in the area. In the evening, a short presentation was given about the rurAllure programme, and the role of MUTKE and KIFÜ in it. The pilgrims received also several rurAllure presents: a booklet about the holy springs made by the rurAllure team, containing the written version of the related narrative, a flask for storing the water from of the Holy Wells and a compass which we hope will always point the pilgrims in the right direction.

On the second day, at dawn, the group set off for the almost 30 km distance. At Csátka the shrine welcomed its visitors with hot tea and snacks then the famous ‘dressed-up’ statue of Mary was introduced. At dusk, they arrived at the holy spring in Jásd, where they were invited to another visit to the 3-meter snow-white statue of the Virgin Mary, known throughout the country.

On the last day, on the way back to Bodajk, the participants prepared for the future with the insights of the past two days helping them to make their New Year's resolutions. Through the magnificent Gaja valley the pilgrims arrived at the top of the Bodajk shrine's calvary after sunset, where they could be thankful for the beauties of the past, and even for the difficulties that had strengthened them. Later the pilgrims welcomed the New Year with a huge fireworks display, some dancing and deep conversations.

We are grateful to all our volunteers on this pilgrimage and we wish wonderful experiences for every pilgrim in the New Year!

[Public Association of the Way of Mary / Mária Út Közhasznú Egyesület](#)

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